



# Newsletter



We have made a good start to the new academic year and were really pleased to welcome so many of you on Friday to see that in action!

We had the great news last week that **Miss Wood's baby** arrived safe and well on Friday – Congratulations to Miss Wood and her family on welcoming baby Isabella into the world.

In addition to the new starters in Reception, we have also welcomed a high number of **new pupils** (and their families); I am always proud of the way the children (and wider community) support these new members of 'Team Yarm.' It was lovely to greet the new Reception parents at last week's welcome tea party – the group are settling into full time school very well – Reception is certainly an exciting place to be!

You may have noticed some **changes** that have happened while school has been closed; including our new car park (no more pot holes). We continue to develop our outside spaces; especially the playground areas and will do more over the coming weeks and ask that you respect our wishes that children do not use the spaces before or after school – thank you for your co-operation. We have had a considerable amount of new IT equipment, which we are embedding into our school day – funded by the Trust, in line with their other academies.

Last week you should have received **curriculum newsletters** – if you didn't please let us know. If you have changed any **contact details** over the break, please take a minute to let us know so that we can update our files.

**FYI** on Friday (approx. 12.45 – 1.15pm) we will be putting the phones onto answerphone mode, to allow us to hold a weekly administrator meeting. If you need to contact us during this time when you call there will be an emergency contact number for you to use.

We have populated a **BIG planner**, to help you forward plan around the school year. As ever some dates may change but we will try our best not to make wholesale alterations. We will send out updated versions periodically. We hope you find this useful.

Children will continue to need a **PE kit** in school throughout the week; to support them being appropriately dressed for their PE sessions. I have asked teaching staff to get in touch with parents of any children who are consistently without a kit. Thank you for your support in this.

We have been asked by the Trust to share some documents with you – if you receive your communications via parentmail they will be attached. One is a **parent's code of conduct**, which is becoming a necessity across some areas of the Trust. I trust that everyone *will* read and understand the motive behind it. If you wish to discuss it further, please contact me via the school office. The other attachment is some advice around **online safety**, which we hope you will find useful, in what is an increasingly challenging area for parents.

We will shortly be publicising two events being held next week - our MacMillan coffee morning and a KS2 Football night – don't miss them!

It is with sadness that I have to report that our **PTA** is being disbanded after many years of conscientious service. As happens periodically, support for the committee waned and it was left to a very small group of members to continue to arrange, organise and carry out the events, which have over the years raised many thousands of pounds for our children. Mrs Pickering and Mrs Nesbit in particular have been stalwarts of recent years, to whom we are very grateful. The group are forwarding their remaining funds to the school, which we will use

to support the art and design curriculum and associated clubs. I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported the PTA over the years in whatever capacity. As a school we have taken on a more strategic fund raising role and ensure that we will continue to develop opportunities for children to enrich their learning experiences.

We would be very grateful if you could consider bringing in your 'junk' for us to use in our **modelling** areas – boxes, plastic containers etc. can all be recycled (and indeed you may very well receive them back disguised as a rocket or marvellous machine!). Our Early Years and lower school teams would all welcome your support – Thank you.

Children in Y2 - Y6 have been nominating their **School Council** representatives and we held our first meeting last week. Congratulations to everyone who was elected and well done to everyone who put themselves forward as potential reps – it takes a lot of courage to 'dare to be disappointed' and I am very proud of everyone who took the risk.

We are looking forward to continuing with the great learning in our classrooms and making this a super year for everyone at Yarm Primary!

Jill Wood

